

## MI Child Support Formula - changes in child support

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**From:** "A. Margaret Goodman" <goodma45@pilot.msu.edu>  
**To:** <mcsf@courts.mi.gov>  
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**Subject:** changes in child support

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After reading the article in the Lansing State Journal regarding child support determined by visitation time of noncustodial parent I had a few questions. How does it work if the visitation agreement determined by the divorce agreement is not followed? For example the visitation schedule agreed upon with my ex and myself gives him every Thursday night from 5:30pm to 5:30 pm Friday, every other weekend, alternating holidays and two weeks in summer. The problem I have had is the noncustodial parent following this schedule. He has had our son for a total of two weeks of summer over the last 5 years. He frequently decides not to see our son following the agreement because he says it is his choice or right but does not have to follow the schedule set up. He cancels the Friday mornings and afternoons and if other things come up; school, work, social activities, then he cancels his visitation; basically any time visitation doesn't fit his schedule he cancels. He presently pays \$215.00/month and I have never taken him back to court to obtain higher amounts now that he has a job.

So with this in mind:

How will support be determined and what rights does the custodial parent have if the scheduled visitation time is less than what was court ordered?

If payments are based on time set up who determines the time and if it is based on the divorce decree what happens when it is not followed?

What recourse does the custodial parent have when the actually visitation time is less?

How will these instances be handled?

How will that effect support payments?

My experiences with the Friend of the Court have not resulted in any changes or have provided me with any recourse to ensure the visitation schedule is followed. I am always told he doesn't have to follow the agreement and that I don't have to agree to it either but then what happens to my child, so I always give in to his changes. It is nearly impossible to communicate in an efficient manner with Friend of the Court due to the way that office works; only certain times to call and speak to live person, turnover in casemanagers high, no returned phone calls, three different people to see based on the problem you are having, ect. I see these changes in support as another opportunity for my ex to blow off his responsibility to his own child. I know we can not make the noncustodial parent see the child but with these purposed changes it appears that the noncustodial parent can get off without paying and then in turn cancel the agreed upon visitation that resulted in lower support payments. I do realize this is not the case in other's visitation schedule but unfortunately my ex is a master manipulator and does not see how his decisions are effecting his son and now he'll be able to manipulate finances as well.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A. Margaret Goodman

(frustrated custodial parent)